



State of Connecticut

## **DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

### **OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

30 TRINITY STREET - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(860) 509-6405 Telephone  
(860) 509-6495 Fax

### **DEBORAH Del PRETE SULLIVAN**

LEGAL COUNSEL/  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER  
[deborah.d.sullivan@jud.ct.gov](mailto:deborah.d.sullivan@jud.ct.gov)

**Testimony of  
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan  
Legal Counsel/Executive Assistant Public Defender**

**Raised Bill No. 1222  
An Act Concerning Parents with Child Support Obligations**

**Public Hearing - Judiciary Committee  
March 30, 2011**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports *Raised Bill No. 1222, An Act Concerning Parents with Child Support Obligations*. This bill would establish a pilot employment program through December 31, 2012 in 3 Judicial Districts for people with child support obligations. A person with child support obligations would be able to apply for an employment opportunity under the program and would not be incarcerated. The bill also provides a possible tax credit for employers who participate in the pilot program.

Each day that a parent remains incarcerated for non-payment of child support, he/she is unable to be employed and pay any child support. In addition, any amount due continues to accumulate and accrue interest. If there was ever a need for family support, it is truly during the times when financial burdens are at their greatest. Incarceration does not make any burden easier or assist in the payment of a person's financial obligations. In fact, when a parent is unable to make the required payments and is incarcerated, the people impacted the most are the children and family of the parent. When a parent is incarcerated, their children are not only deprived of the financial support that might be provided if the parent is ultimately able to obtain employment, but are also deprived of the love and physical presence of their parent in their daily routines and lives. Obtaining employment in the current economy is difficult enough and greatly impacts already vulnerable relationships. This bill would provide an opportunity for employment to those who apply, in lieu of incarceration.

For these reasons, the Office of Chief Public Defender urges support of this bill.